

Extracts.

THE GIFTS.

There are flowers for favours
Your roses, red roses
As bright as earth's discolors
Red roses with sweet savours
Flowers in the spout weat
These are flowers for favours
Flowers of sweetest savours
Wear them on thy breast
Flowers too cold for bosoms
Take them in thy hand—
White lilies, white lilies
And great difficulties
These lilies are the bosoms
Lilies are the life and soul
Flowers too cold for bosoms
Take them in thy hand
These are flowers for favours
Wear them in thy hair—
Blue pansies, blue pansies
Pure as maiden fancies
Blues like blue eyes beaming
For golden locks to wear—
These are flowers for favours
Blue, and bright and beaming
Wear them on thy hair
These are flowers for favours
Strews beneath thy feet:
Oxide, bluebell, daisies,
Sweets the meadow raises—
Oxide, thyme, and clover
These are flowers for favours
Wear them on thy feet
Where thy footsteps tread
Strews beneath thy feet
These are flowers for favours
Lady, them on thy face
White lilies, red roses,
Blue pansies, blue pansies
And countless flowers give favours
Beneath thy soft footfall
Wear them on thy face
Drink thy sweetest savours
Lady of them all
—From Cassell's Magazine.

A STRONG KING.

Louis the Sixteenth's bodily power was wonderful. I could give instances that might seem puerile, but which surprised us considerably. In the chamber called the *Ril de Bani*, there was a shovel so heavy, that it took a strong man to hold it out at arms length. He had often seen this thing, perform this feat with a little padding on the shovel as well. One of the Swiss park keepers had kept a heavy mountain rifle by him, requiring a great deal of strength to put it to the shoulder, and bear the shock of the recoil. The king had heard of it, and one day left the hunt, went to the Swiss, took the rifle, put it to his shoulder with the greatest ease, and fired it without shaking in the least. —*Recollections of a Page at the Court of Louis XVI.*

THE ARTIST ON MONT BLANC.

The cold was sufficient to freeze the who in our bottles, but in still air the cold is but little felt, and by walking briskly up and down, and adopting the gymnastic exercises in which the alpine guides are so expert, we were able to keep up a sufficient degree of circulation. I say, "we," but I am libelling the most enthusiastic member of the party. A French painter—his name will be easily guessed by visitors to Chamonix—sat resolutely on the snow, at the risk, as you might have thought, of following the example of St. Louis. Superior, as it appeared, to the facilities which best the human frame suddenly plunged into a temperature I know not how many degrees below freezing point, he worked with ever-increasing fervor in a desperate attempt to fix upon canvas some of the magic beauties of the scene. Glancing from earth to heaven and from north to south, sketching with boundless rapidity the appearance of the peaks, the glaciers, the wheels round like a weather-cock to make lastly notes of the western clouds, breaking out at times into uncontrollable exclamations of delight, or reporting his thoughtless companions when their opaque bodies eclipsed a whole quarter of the heavens, he enjoyed, I should fancy, an hour as few could delight as not often occurs to an enthusiastic lover of the sublime in nature. We laughed, envied, and admired, and he escaped frost-bites. —*Cornhill Magazine.*

SEA BEARS.

The full-grown seal-bear is from eight to nine feet long, measures five in girth, and weighs a weight of from eight to nine hundred pounds. He indulges in polygamy, like a Turk or Mormon, and has often as many as fifty wives. The young are generally lively, fond of play and fight. When one has thrown another down, the father approaches with a growl, and then, tries to overturn him, and above increasing fondness the better he defends himself. Lazy and listless youngsters are objects of his dislike, and these hang generally about their mother. The male is very much attached to his wives, but treats them with all the severity of an Oriental despot. When a mother neglects to carry away her young and allows it to be taken, she is bound to feel his anger. He seizes her with his teeth, strikes her several times, not even giving, against a cliff. As soon as she recovers from the stunning effect of these blows, she approaches her lord in this most humble attitude, crawls to his feet, caresses him, and even sheds tears, as Stoller, the companion of Behring's voyage informs us. Meanwhile, the male curls up and fondles his teeth, rolls his eyes, and throws his head from side to side. But when he sees that his young is irrevocably lost, he then, like the mother, begins to cry so bitterly that the tears trickle down his cheeks upon his breast. In his old age the seal-bear is abandoned by his wives, and spends the remainder of his life in solitude. —*The Sea and its Living Wonders.*

THE GERMAN'S SUNDAY, FROM AN AMERICAN POINT OF VIEW.

The German's idea of Sunday is anything but Puritanic. It is the very opposite. It is for them a day of amusement. It is no unusual thing to be asked by a German on Monday morning, "Well, how did you amuse yourself yesterday?" There are those among the Germans, of course, who respect and keep the Sabbath; but then there are always enough of them who do not; and to judge by the numbers in which they frequent their places of amusement on Sunday—the parks, beer-gardens, and public halls—stronger might possibly be tempted to inquire whether the Germans had any idea of a Sabbath. Men, women, and children, old with their wives, and younger ones with their sweethearts, throng these places every Sunday, and enjoy themselves, careless of what impression they make on their fellow-citizens of American origin, to whom the sound of brass instruments on the Sabbath is anything but welcome or edifying. In the cold days of winter, when the parks and beer-gardens are deserted and shorn of their beauty, the German seeks amusement in some hall instead. Here he treats himself to a compound of rather heterogeneous elements—to music, beer, and gambling. On Sunday afternoon, any Sunday afternoon in the cold of winter, you find him, with his wife or child, or both, in some large hall, one of a hundred or five hundred, smoking his meerschaum or his cigar, sipping his beer, wine, or coffee, and listening to a selection from Meyerbeer or Beethoven. Were it summer, he would add to this the sound of the fumes of his tobacco, and the smell of his beer; for he is as fond of flowers as he is of any of these, and is never happier than when the air, trembling to the notes of the orchestra, is redolent with tobacco-smoke, the perfume of the rose, heliotrope, and hop, and he is himself in the midst of them all. —*Atlantic Monthly.*

THE TAJ MAHAL, AGRA.

This celebrated and far-renowned Taj Mahal, or Taj Boghi-ka-Rosa, is situated on the right bank of the river Jumna, and is about two miles from the town of Agra. It forms a prominent object in the horizon for many miles in every direction, just as it is reached through the misty atmosphere, at a distance of twenty miles. As you get out of your carriage you enter a large cloistered serai attached to the monument. Then follows the grand quadrangular enclosure of lofty red sandstone walls, with turrets at the angles. The quadrangle is from east to west 504 feet, and from north to south 329 feet. As yet, however, the Taj is secluded like an Indian woman, and prevented from bursting at once on the spectator's view. Passing through a yawning arch with massive gateway, at the farther extremity of a garden ornamented with cypress trees and fountains, you see the Taj in all its glorious majesty looking forth on the world like what one fancies a fairy palace must have been, such as one reads of in the "Arabian Nights." It is said that the marble assumes different colours according to the state of the atmosphere: early in the morning, before the sun is up, it appears light blue; as the sun rises it takes a rosy hue, and often a bright yellow, when a storm is impending, and the dark blue clouds hang over it, it looks a violet colour. But the most beautiful phase of all is when seen by moonlight. The best place then to see it is about forty yards down the straight walk leading to the gateway on the left-hand side, when it looks like a floating palace in the air, and seems far away as you approach. The Taj of Delhi was there, a few days previously to our visit, it was brilliantly illuminated by torches and blue lights, both within and without, but though the effect was very grand, there can be little doubt that, aesthetically, the Taj illuminated is a mistake. The mausoleum stands upon a spacious square, the sides of which are paved with white and yellow, as is fresh as if it had been polished only yesterday. From the four corners of this terrace rise four elegant minarets of great symmetry and beauty, and said to be of the smallest possible circumference to stand such a great height—225 feet. The actual mausoleum is octagonal, or rather square, with the corners truncated, surmounted by "a vast and wondrous dome," with which that of St. Peter at Rome is not to be named in the same breath. The height from the ground to the gilt argent on the pinnacle is said to be 296 feet. It is, therefore, not only the loftiest building in the place of India, but in all the Old World. Everything inside and out (decorations excepted), is the purest white marble, beautifully polished and decorated. It shines so dazzlingly in the sun that you can scarcely look at it near at hand, except in the morning and evening. Every part—even the basement, and the dome, and the upper galleries of the minarets—is inlaid with ornamental designs in marble of different colours, chiefly a pale brown and a bluish violet variety. Great as the dimensions of the Taj are, it is as laboriously finished as one of those Chinese caskets of ivory and ebony which are now so common in Europe. Bishop Heber truly said, "The Taj is a masterpiece of art and labour, and the Taj is a masterpiece of art and labour, and the Taj is a masterpiece of art and labour." —*Chambers's Shilling Magazine.*

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INSURANCES.

QUEEN INSURANCE COMPANY.
FROM and after this date, and until further notice, a Discount of Twenty per cent. (20%) upon current local rates of Premium, will be returned on Insurances against Fire, effected with this Office.
EDWARD NORTON & Co., Agents.
1174 25th June, 1872.

INSURANCES.

PHENIX FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.
THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company at this Port, are prepared to grant Policies against Fire to the extent of \$40,000, on Buildings, or on Goods stored therein.
DOUGLAS LAPELAK & Co., Agents.
717 Hongkong, 24th August, 1869.

INSURANCES.

THE QUEEN INSURANCE COMPANY.
THE following rates will be charged in future for SHORT PERIOD Insurances, viz:
Not exceeding 1 month, 1/2 of the annual rate.
Above 1 month and not exceeding 3 months, 2/3 of the annual rate.
Above 3 months and not exceeding 6 months, 3/4 of the annual rate.
Above 6 months and not exceeding 12 months, 4/5 of the annual rate.
Above 12 months, the full annual rate.
EDWARD NORTON & Co., Agents.
242 Hongkong, 22nd January, 1870.

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Above 12 months, the full annual rate.
EDWARD NORTON & Co., Agents.
242 Hongkong, 22nd January, 1870.

INSURANCES.

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY.
THE Undersigned are prepared to grant Policies against Fire in the above Company at current rates, subject to a discount of 20 per cent.
ROB. S. WALKER & Co., Agents.
1617 Hongkong, 1st October, 1873.

INSURANCES.

POSITIVE GOVERNMENT SECURITY LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.
CHAS. H. MORGAN, Agent.
11 908 Hongkong, 18th June, 1872.

INSURANCES.

BATAVIA SEA AND FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.
THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents in Hongkong for the above-named Company, are prepared to grant Policies against Sea Risks at current rates.
RUSSELL & Co., Agents.
1022 Hongkong, 1st April, 1865.

INSURANCES.

OSMAN MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.
THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company, are prepared to accept Marine Risks and issue Policies at current rates.
AUGUSTINE HEARD & Co., Agents.
1351 Hongkong, 7th June, 1867.

INSURANCES.

BATAVIA SEA AND FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.
THE Undersigned are now prepared to grant Policies against Fire on First-class Buildings, to an extent of \$10,000.
A discount of Twenty per cent. (20%) upon current local rates of Premium, will be returned on Insurances against Fire, effected with this Office, subject to a discount of 20 per cent.
RUSSELL & Co., Agents.
11 15 Hongkong, 1st January, 1872.

INSURANCES.

CHINESE INSURANCE COMPANY, (LIMITED).
NOTICE.
POLICIES granted at current rates on Marine Risks to all parts of the World. In accordance with the Company's Articles of Association, the Directors have resolved that the actual share of the profits, after deducting all expenses, shall be divided equally among the shareholders, whether Shareholders or not, in proportion to the net amount of Premium contributed by each, the remaining third being carried to Reserve Fund.
OLYMPIAN & Co., General Agents.
951 Hongkong, 17th April, 1873.

INSURANCES.

THE QUEEN INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.
HEAD OFFICE—HONGKONG.
AGENTS at all the Treaty Ports of China and Japan, and at Singapore, Saigon and Penang.
Policies are issued, and Policies of Insurance granted at the rates of Premium current at the time of issue.
No charge for Policy fees.
JAS. B. COUGHTRY, Secretary.
Hongkong, 1st November, 1871. [1873]

INSURANCES.

IMPERIAL FIRE OFFICE.
FROM and after this date the following rates will be charged SHORT PERIOD Insurances, viz:
Not exceeding Ten days, 1/2 of the annual rate.
Not exceeding 1 month, 2/3 of the annual rate.
Above 1 month and not exceeding 3 months, 3/4 of the annual rate.
Above 3 months and not exceeding 6 months, 4/5 of the annual rate.
Above 6 months and not exceeding 12 months, 5/6 of the annual rate.
Above 12 months, the full annual rate.
GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co., Agents.
1174 25th June, 1872.

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INSURANCES.

CHINA TRADERS' INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.
NOTICE.
IN conformity with the Special Resolutions adopted and confirmed at the Extraordinary Meeting of Shareholders held on the 1st and 15th instants, altering Clause No. 130, 131, 132, and 133 of the Articles of Association, (such changes to take effect from 1st November, 1871), the Net Profit of the Company will, from that date, be distributed as follows, viz:
Two-thirds (2/3) to all contributors, whether Shareholders or not, in proportion to the net amount of Premium contributed by each.
One-third (1/3) to Shareholders generally, according to the number of shares held by each.
AUGUSTINE HEARD & Co., General Agents.
114 Hongkong, 16th February, 1872.

INSURANCES.

THE LONDON ASSURANCE COMPANY.
INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.
HEAD OFFICE—LONDON.
THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company, are prepared to grant Policies against Fire to the extent of \$40,000, on Buildings, or on Goods stored therein, subject to a bonus of 20 per cent.
MELCHERS & Co., Agents.
3m 1618 Hongkong, 1st October, 1873.

INSURANCES.

YANG-TSE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION, TION OF SHANGHAI.
CAPITAL AND SURPLUS 765,000 TAELS.
POLICIES granted on Marine Risks to all parts of the World, at current rates. This Association will, until further notice, provide out of the earnings, first for an interest dividend of 15% for shareholders on Capital, and thereafter distribute among Policy holders annually, in the form of a bonus, the sum of 10% of the net profit of the Association, after deducting all expenses, to be paid to the Policy holders in proportion to the amount of premium contributed.
RUSSELL & Co., Agents.
1059 Hongkong, 9th July, 1872.

INSURANCES.

NOTICE.
FROM and after this date the following rates will be charged for SHORT PERIOD Insurances, viz:
Not exceeding Ten days, 1/2 of the annual rate.
Not exceeding 1 month, 2/3 of the annual rate.
Above 1 month and not exceeding 3 months, 3/4 of the annual rate.
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Above 12 months, the full annual rate.
EDWARD NORTON & Co., Agents.
242 Hongkong, 22nd January, 1870.

INSURANCES.

THE QUEEN INSURANCE COMPANY.
THE following rates will be charged in future for SHORT PERIOD Insurances, viz:
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1617 Hongkong, 1st October, 1873.

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1022 Hongkong, 1st April, 1865.

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CHINA TRADERS' INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.
NOTICE.
IN conformity with the Special Resolutions adopted and confirmed at the Extraordinary Meeting of Shareholders held on the 1st and 15th instants, altering Clause No. 130, 131, 132, and 133 of the Articles of Association, (such changes to take effect from 1st November, 1871), the Net Profit of the Company will, from that date, be distributed as follows, viz:
Two-thirds (2/3) to all contributors, whether Shareholders or not, in proportion to the net amount of Premium contributed by each.
One-third (1/3) to Shareholders generally, according to the number of shares held by each.
AUGUSTINE HEARD & Co., General Agents.
114 Hongkong, 16th February, 1872.

INSURANCES.

THE LONDON ASSURANCE COMPANY.
INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.
HEAD OFFICE—LONDON.
THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company, are prepared to grant Policies against Fire to the extent of \$40,000, on Buildings, or on Goods stored therein, subject to a bonus of 20 per cent.
MELCHERS & Co., Agents.
3m 1618 Hongkong, 1st October, 1873.

INSURANCES.

YANG-TSE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION, TION OF SHANGHAI.
CAPITAL AND SURPLUS 765,000 TAELS.
POLICIES granted on Marine Risks to all parts of the World, at current rates. This Association will, until further notice, provide out of the earnings, first for an interest dividend of 15% for shareholders on Capital, and thereafter distribute among Policy holders annually, in the form of a bonus, the sum of 10% of the net profit of the Association, after deducting all expenses, to be paid to the Policy holders in proportion to the amount of premium contributed.
RUSSELL & Co., Agents.
1059 Hongkong, 9th July, 1872.

INSURANCES.

NOTICE.
FROM and after this date the following rates will be charged for SHORT PERIOD Insurances, viz:
Not exceeding Ten days, 1/2 of the annual rate.
Not exceeding 1 month, 2/3 of the annual rate.
Above 1 month and not exceeding 3 months, 3/4 of the annual rate.
Above 3 months and not exceeding 6 months, 4/5 of the annual rate.
Above 6 months and not exceeding 12 months, 5/6 of the annual rate.
Above 12 months, the full annual rate.
EDWARD NORTON & Co., Agents.
242 Hongkong, 22nd January, 1870.

INSURANCES.

THE QUEEN INSURANCE COMPANY.
THE following rates will be charged in future for SHORT PERIOD Insurances, viz:
Not exceeding 1 month, 1/2 of the annual rate.
Above 1 month and not exceeding 3 months, 2/3 of the annual rate.
Above 3 months and not exceeding 6 months, 3/4 of the annual rate.
Above 6 months and not exceeding 12 months, 4